In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph spanning page 9 line 22 – page 10 line 7 with the following:

--Referring now to Figure 4, exemplary **PTO** vectors are shown, wherein the PTO vector comprise the Activity bits for each queue input at the selector for a given time slot. The selector advances from the first time slot to the next only when certain considerations are met. In Figure 4, Queues 0 – 3 are 0 and 1 are Balanced queues [[72]] 76, Queues 4 and 5 2 and 3 are Best Effort queues 74, and Queues [[4-7]] 6 and 7 are Priority queues [[76]] 72. Note that multiple queues may be assigned to a common time slot, but only one Balanced queue is assigned to each time slot. For example, queues, queues 0, 6 [[1]], and 7 each have their activity bit set during time slot 70. According to one aspect of the invention, if multiple queues that are each assigned to a specific time slot have a packet available for forwarding, certain rules are applied to determine which queue is permitted to transmit. The rules that are used are summarized below, and comprise packet selection rules, credit value rules and slot advancement rules.--

In the claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method for selecting one of a plurality of data sources as a source of data, wherein the data sources are apportioned into a first types of data source and a second type of data source, the method comprising the steps of:

 providing a plurality of vectors, each [[a]] vector associated with for each one of the plurality of data sources, [[the]] each vector comprising a series of N bits, where each bit corresponds to one of N time slots, each bit representing whether the associated one of the plurality of data sources is assigned to the corresponding time slot;

 determining, for each time slot, a slot style of the time slot; and

 selecting, at each time slot, one of the plurality of data sources as the source of data, the step of selecting operating in response to the slot style of the time slot and the plurality of vectors.

2.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further operates in response to a value of each bit associated with the time slot from each vector of the plurality of [[data]] vectors.

3.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the value of each bit associated with the time slot from each vector of the plurality of vectors indicates whether the associated data source is assigned to the time slot, and wherein the step of selecting further operates in response to whether an assigned data source is ready.

4.   (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the first type of data source is a priority queue, and wherein the step of selecting selects a highest priority queue that is assigned to the time slot and is ready.

5.   (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the second type of data
        source is a balanced bandwidth queue, a subset of the plurality of data sources are
        balanced bandwidth queues, and at least one of the balanced bandwidth queues is
        assigned to the time slot, wherein the step of selecting selects the balanced
        bandwidth queue if the balanced bandwidth queue is ready and if no assigned
        priority queue is ready.

6.   (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein a Some Balanced Bandwidth
        queue indicator is provided to indicate whether one of the plurality of data
        sources.

7.   (original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of
        advancing the time slot responsive to no assigned priority queue being ready, the
        assigned balanced bandwidth queue not being ready and the Some Balanced
        Bandwidth queue indicator being set.

8.   (original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising a third type of data
        source, wherein the third type of data source is a best effort queue, and wherein
        the step of selecting selects a best effort queue as the source of data for a time slot
        when none of the plurality of data queues assigned to the time slot are of the first
        data type or the second data type.

9.   (currently amended) A data structure for storage in a computer readable medium
        on a device, the data structure for use in selecting one of a plurality of inputs as an
        output, the data structure comprising:

        for each one of the plurality of inputs:

a vector having a series of N bits, each bit corresponding to a time slot for transmission of the output for indicating whether the input is assigned to the respective time slot; [[and]]

a style field, for indicating a style of the input, wherein the style is selected from at least two styles; and

a credit field, for indicating a credit associated with the respective input, wherein the credit is used in conjunction with the style field for determining whether the respective input is permitted to transmit if it is assigned to the slot.

10.   (cancelled)

11.   (currently amended) ~~The data structure of claim 9, further comprising, for each one of the plurality of inputs,~~ A data structure for storage in a computer readable medium on a device, the data structure for use in selecting one of a plurality of inputs as an output, the data structure comprising:

for each one of the plurality of inputs:

a vector having a series of N bits, each bit corresponding to a time slot for transmission of the output for indicating whether the input is assigned to the respective time slot;

a style field, for indicating a style of the input, wherein the style is selected from at least two styles; and

a slot style vector, the slot style vector comprising N bits, each bit corresponding to the time slot for indicating a type of the time slot.

12.   (currently amended) ~~The data structure of claim 9, further comprising, for each one of the plurality of inputs,~~ A data structure for storage in a computer readable medium on a device, the data structure for use in selecting one of a plurality of inputs as an output, the data structure comprising:

for each one of the plurality of inputs:

a vector having a series of N bits, each bit corresponding to a time slot for transmission of the output for indicating whether the input is assigned to the respective time slot;

a style field, for indicating a style of the input, wherein the style is selected from at least two styles; and

a ready bit for indicating whether the associated input is ready to transmit to the output.

13.   (currently amended) A selector for selecting one of a plurality of inputs to provide an output , the selector comprising:

a control data structure comprising, for each one of the plurality of inputs:

a vector having a series of N bits, each bit corresponding to one of a plurality of time slots, for indicating whether the input is assigned to the respective time slot for transmission;

a style field, for indicating a style of the input, wherein the style is selected from at least two styles; and

a slot style vector, the slot style vector comprising N bits, each bit corresponding to one of the plurality of time slots, for indicating a type of the time slot;

and means, responsive to [[the]] each vector and in response to the style fields associated with each of the plurality of inputs, the style field and the slot style vector, for selecting one of the plurality of inputs to provide an output for each time slot. .

14.   (cancelled)

15.   (original) The selector of claim 13, A selector for selecting one of a plurality of inputs to provide an output , the selector comprising:

a control data structure stored on a computer readable medium and used by the selector to control the selection of one of the plurality of inputs to provide to an the output, the control data structure comprising, for each one of the plurality of inputs:

      a vector having a series of N bits, each bit corresponding to one of a plurality of time slots, for indicating whether the input is assigned to the respective time slot for transmission;

      a style field, for indicating a style of the input, wherein the style is selected from at least two styles;

      a slot style vector, the slot style vector comprising N bits, each bit corresponding to one of the plurality of time slots, for indicating a type of the time slot; and

      ~~wherein the control structure further includes~~ a ready bit for each input, for indicating whether each input is ready to transmit to the output, wherein the means for selecting further operates in response to the ready bit of each input.

16.   (currently amended) A queueing system comprising:

a plurality of queues, each queue having a type associated therewith;

a selector, coupled to the plurality of queues, the selector for selecting one of the plurality of queues to provide data to an output, the selector comprising a control structure including a plurality of vectors, each [[a]] vector associated with one of the plurality of queues and comprising a number of bits corresponding to a number of time slots, wherein each of the time slots has a type associated therewith, wherein a set of the plurality of queues are assigned to each of the time slots, and wherein the selector selects one of the plurality of queues to provide an output for each time slot based on the type of the each time slot, bit values in the plurality of vectors and the type of the queue.

17.   (original) The queuing system of claim 16, further comprising a rate limiter disposed between the plurality of queues and the selector.

18.   (currently amended) The queueing system of claim 16, wherein the plurality of queues comprises a plurality of priority queues and a plurality of balanced bandwidth queues, wherein the selector further comprises an indictor for indicating that at least one of the plurality of the balanced bandwidth queues is ready to transmit data.

19.   (original) The queueing system of claim 18, wherein the selector operates to select a priority queue if the priority queue is ready and assigned.

20.   (original) The queueing system of claim 19, wherein the selector operates to select a priority queue if the priority queue is ready but not assigned, and the associated time slot stype is a priority time slot type.

21.   (original) The queueing system of claim 19, wherein the selector operates to select a balanced bandwidth queue if the assigned priority queue is not ready, and the balanced bandwidth queue is assigned and ready.

22.   (original) The queueing system of claim 21, wherein the selector operates to advance the time slot if the assigned priority queue is not ready, and the balanced bandwidth queue is assigned but not ready, and the indicator is set to indicate that at least one of the plurality of balanced bandwidth queues is ready.

23.   (currently amended) A network line card comprising:

an ingress data path for forwarding a packet from a device to a fabric;

an egress data path for forwarding a packet from a fabric to a device, the egress data path comprising a queueing system, the queueing system comprising:

a plurality of queues, each queue having a type associated therewith;

a selector, coupled to the plurality of queues, the selector for selecting one of the plurality of queues to provide data to an output, the selector comprising a control structure including a plurality of vectors, each [[a]] vector associated with one of the plurality of queues and comprising a number of bits corresponding to a number of time slots for indicating an availability of the time slot to the associated queue, wherein each of the time slots has a type associated therewith, wherein a set of the plurality of queues are assigned to each of the time slots, and wherein the selector selects one of the plurality of queues to provide an output for each time slot based on the type of the each time slot, bit values for the each time slot in the plurality of vectors and the type of the queue.

24.   (original) The network line card of claim 23, wherein the queueing system further comprises a rate limiter disposed between the plurality of queues and the selector.

25.   (original) The network line card of claim 23, wherein the plurality of queues comprises a plurality of priority queues and a plurality of balanced bandwidth queues, wherein the selector further comprises an indictor for indicating that at least one of the plurality of the balanced bandwidth queues is ready to transmit data.

26.   (original) The network line card of claim 25, wherein the selector operates to select a priority queue if the priority queue is ready and assigned.

27.   (original) The network line card of claim 25, wherein the selector operates to select a priority queue if the priority queue is ready but not assigned, and the associated time slot stype is a priority time slot type.

28.   (original) The network line card of claim 27, wherein the selector operates to select a balanced bandwidth queue if the assigned priority queue is not ready, and the balanced bandwidth queue is assigned and ready.

29.   (original) The network line card of claim 28, wherein the selector operates to advance the time slot if the assigned priority queue is not ready, and the balanced bandwidth queue is assigned but not ready, and the indicator is set to indicate that at least one of the plurality of balanced bandwidth queues is ready.